

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Waynetta G., ¹)	C/A No.: 1:20-cv-2341-SVH
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	ORDER
Andrew M. Saul,)	
Commissioner of Social Security)	
Administration,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff's motion for attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"). [ECF No. 19]. On March 4, 2021, the court granted the Government's unopposed motion to reverse and remand the Commissioner's final decision denying Plaintiff's claim for Disability Insurance Benefits under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). [ECF No. 17]. Plaintiff subsequently filed this motion seeking attorney fees of \$3,315.00 and expenses of \$21.15. [ECF No. 19]. The Government subsequently filed a response indicating it did not object to Plaintiff's request. [ECF No. 20]. In the absence of an objection to Plaintiff's requested EAJA fee and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), the court grants the motion and directs the Commissioner to pay Plaintiff \$3,336.15. This payment shall

¹ The Committee on Court Administration and Case Management of the Judicial Conference of the United States has recommended that, due to significant privacy concerns in social security cases, federal courts should refer to claimants only by their first names and last initials.

constitute a complete release from and bar to any further claims that Plaintiff may have under the EAJA to fees, costs, and expenses incurred in connection with disputing the Commissioner's decision. This award is without prejudice to the rights of Plaintiff's counsel to seek attorney fees under section 206(b) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA.

Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2528–29 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this court belong to Plaintiff and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Therefore, the court orders the EAJA fee to be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to the business address of Plaintiff's counsel.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

April 19, 2021
Columbia, South Carolina



Shiva V. Hodges
United States Magistrate Judge

² Plaintiff's counsel may disburse these funds to satisfy valid liens or in accordance with a lawful assignment.